

Chairman Julius Genachowski Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

May 24, 2011

RE: In the matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or transfer control of licenses and authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).

## Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The McAlester Defense Support Association is a nonprofit dedicated to attracting defense work to the McAlester area. Located in Southeast Oklahoma, McAlester is recognized as a trade center for the region, with a rural population of 130,000 in the surrounding areas. With a total population of approximately 18,000 people, McAlester has a diverse population employed in a variety of industries, including retail; educational/health/social services; public administration; and manufacturing.

Not unlike other communities across the state and country, we do face our own economic challenges. For example, approximately 19 percent of people in McAlester are below the poverty level – and 25 percent of related children under age 18 are living in poverty. We believe that one important way to attract economic growth to the area is by supporting the defense industry here in McAlester.

Our Association works hard to advocate for the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and the Defense Ammunition Center, which together bring a total of nearly \$200 million in business to the area. We actively recruit leaders in our community who are committed to trying to increase the defense work in McAlester.

Unfortunately, we are limited in our reach due to a lack of access to an important capability that other competing communities can count on: high-speed wireless service. We are supportive of the proposed merger of T-Mobile with AT&T, because the end result will be greater access to high-speed wireless services for our businesses in McAlester and in the surrounding rural areas.

With this increased access, we'll be better able to market the benefits of bringing business to McAlester through real-time marketing, improved contact with suppliers and potential contract administrators – not to mention that with a more digitally-savvy community, our workforce will also be more competitive in applying for any additional jobs created by defense investment to the area.

Please join us in supporting increased access to high-speed wireless service for McAlester and for Southeast Oklahoma.

Very truly yours,

Mark Jordan

Chairman, MDSA

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps Commissioner Robert McDowell Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker